

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05237 282047Z

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ACTION EB-11

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TAGS: ETRN, PE

SUBJECT: CIVIAR - BRANIFF/AEROPERU PROBLEM

REF: LIMA 5179

DEAN-FRECHETTE TELECON JUNE 28

1. I MET WITH TRANSPORT MINISTER MENESES THIS MORNING. I ASKED HIM WHAT GOP RESPONSE WOULD BE TO USG INVITATION TO CONSULT IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY JULY. I ALSO REPEATED REQUEST THAT MINISTER PERMIT BRANIFF TO OPERATE TWO ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES AS OF JULY 1 ON PROVISIONAL BASIS PENDING OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS.

2. MINISTER WAS UNDERSTANDING BUT SAID THAT, WHILE GOP LOOKED FORWARD TO CONSULTATIONS AND HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL, GOP COULD NOT RESPOND TO INVITATION UNTIL AEROPERU'S OPERATING PERMIT WERE GRANTED IN FORM DESIRED. IF THIS WERE NOT THE CASE, THERE WOULD IN GOP VIEW BE NOTHING TO CONSULT ABOUT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO BRANIFF'S ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES,
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PAGE 02 LIMA 05237 282047Z

MINISTER SAID THAT WHILE GOP WAS AGREEABLE TO BRANIFF CON-

TINUING TO OPERATE PRESENT FREQUENCIES PENDING CONSULTATIONS, IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PERMIT BRANIFF TO EXPAND ITS OPERATIONS PRIOR TO RESOLUTION AEROPERU PROBLEM. HE COMMENTED THAT SITUATION HAD BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY ISSUANCE OF AEROPERU COMMUNIQUE. WHICH HE DEPLORED AND WHICH HE SAID NEVER SHOULD HAVE SEEN LIGHT OF DAY. UNFORTUNATELY, MATTER WAS NOW EXPOSED TO PUBLIC VIEW AND HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF EDITORIAL COMMENT. PUBLIC WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND GOP ASSENT TO NEW FREQUENCIES UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. I THEN ASKED HIM IF GOP WOULD BE IN POSITION TO AGREE TO BRANIFF OPERATING ITS NEW FREQUENCIES ON A TECHNICAL BASIS WITHOUT CARRYING TRAFFIC IN OR OUT OF LIMA, EMPHASIZING TO HIM WHAT DISRUPTION OF SCHEDULES WOULD MEAN IN PRACTICAL TERMS. MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITHIN MINISTRY ON THIS POINT. (COMMENT: I AM NOT SANGUINE THAT HIS RESPONSE WILL BE FAVORABLE.)

4. I ASKED MINISTER IF GOP WOULD PERMIT ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES IF I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT CAB HAD AGREED TO ELIMINATION OF TWO CONDITONS TO WHICH AEROPERU (AND GOP) HAVE ABJECTED. MINISTER WAS NONCOMMITTAL BUT SAID THAT ANY SUCH ASSURANCE WOULD HAE TO BE IN SUCH FORM THAT IT COULD BE MADE PUBLIC.

5. BRANIFF LAWYER DEL SOLAR REPORTS CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER MERCADO IN NEW YORK CITY THIS MORNING IN WHICH MERCADO SAID THAT IT WAS PRESIDENT VELASCO'S PERSONAL DECISION TO HOLD BRANIFF TO CURRENT FREQUENCIES UNTIL HE SATISFIED THAT AEROPERU PERMIT WOULD BE ISSUED WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. MERCADO ADDED THAT HE WOULD CALL VELASCO HIMSELF (FROM NY) IF HE GOT THE "RIGHT" INFORMATION (PRESUMABLY WORD OF ISSUANCE OF AEROPERU PERMIT OR CONVINCING ASSURANCE OF IMMINENT ISSUANCE WITHOUT OFFENDING RESTRICTIONS. MERCADO REPORTEDLY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT ON PERU-U.S. REALTIONS OF FAILURE TO PERMIT NEW FREQUENCIES AND IS SEARCHING FOR BEST ASSURANCE HE CAN GET.

6. COMMENT: IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT MINISTER FINDS HIMSELF IN SITUATION WITH LITTLE FLEXIBILITY. HSI REFERENCE TO "PUBLIC OPINION" WHICH WOULD NOT PERMIT OPERATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LIMA 05237 282047Z

OF NEW FREQUENCIES SHOULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN "PRESIDENT VELASCO", WHO TOOK STRONG PERSONAL STAND ON ISSUE OF OPERATING PERMIT IN CABINET MEETING LAST TUESDAY (SEE REFTEL). HOWEVER, IT IS MY BELIEF THAT IF I WERE IN A POSITION TO ASSURE THE MINISTER THAT THE LAW JUDGE'S RECOMMENDATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO OBJECTIONABLE CONDITONS HAD BEEN OVERRULED AND THAT THE CAB'S RECOMMENDATION WOULD SOON GO FORWARD TO THE PRESIDENT WITHOUT THESE CONDITIONS IN SUCH

A MANNER THAT THE MINISTER COULD MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT
TO THIS EFFECT, THE PROBABILITY WOULD THEN BE VERY GOOD
THAT THE MINISTER COULD AGREE TO BRANIFF'S NEW FREQUENCIES.
I URGE THAT A HIGH LEVEL EFFORT BE MADE TO BRING THIS
ABOUT, AND THAT IF ACHIEVED, IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION BE
TRANSMITTED TO MERCADO AND TO AMBASSADOR BERCHEMEYER AS
WELL AS TO THIS EMBASSY. SUCH ACTION SHOULD ALSO HELP
EFFORTS TO SCHEDULE EARLY CONSULTATIONS.
DEAN

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